



2021 Crime Prevention Ottawa Awards Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I want to nominate a program that we recently started. We are really excited about it and we are already seeing results. Would it qualify?

A. No, only programs and people with a track record will be considered. There is a minimum requirement of at least 2 years. The only exception is for the youth award: If you are nominating an individual youth, we will consider a nomination that shows a shorter involvement. However, if you are nominating a youth program, it must have existed for more than 2 years.

Q. The program or collaboration that I want to nominate does not fit neatly into any of your categories. What should I do?

A. Don't worry about the categories, they are flexible. The important part of the nomination is demonstrating that the nominee excels at meeting the Selection Criteria listed at the top of page 3 in the Nominations package.

Q. I want to nominate a person, group, program or collaboration that has been actively involved in a social justice movement or has made a real difference during COVID-19. Would they qualify?

A. Given the unprecedented events of this year with COVID-19 and worldwide movement for social justice, we welcome nominations that might also highlight a person, group or program's involvement in initiatives that have served to build a better, safer, more inclusive city. However, please note that your nominee must have been involved in reducing crime and creating a safer community for a minimum of two (2) years in order to be eligible for consideration for a CPO Award.

Q. I am really excited about my work. Can I nominate myself or the program I manage?

A. Yes, there are no rules that prohibit that, but the nominations committee looks more favourably on nominations that show clear community support. If you would like to nominate yourself or your program, consider asking your supporters or the people you serve to submit a nomination in addition to your own or include letters of support with your nomination.

Q. I have not told the person I want to nominate. Is that okay?

A. You may nominate someone as a surprise, but we will notify them if they win and respect their wishes if they choose not to receive the award. We have had one person turn down an award. If a nomination is not successful, we only notify the nominator.

Q. The selection criteria state, "...based on the evidence of what works for preventing crime." What does that mean?

A. Crime Prevention Ottawa values a strong focus on research and evaluation. It's not good enough to tell us that people like a program. We need to know that it actually worked to prevent crime. If you have not done any formal evaluation, tell us a few client stories that illustrate how you have changed their lives. If you are nominating an individual, please submit evidence that demonstrates how their contribution has helped prevent crime or improve community safety. This might include testimonials from people who have been affected by their contribution, evaluation results from initiatives the person has organized, or numbers demonstrating the impact of their efforts (for example, 200 people have participated in the Safety Coffee Houses the nominee organized this year in the neighbourhood, or 100 local residents currently use the community garden the nominee started).

Q. The selection criteria refer to "innovation." What does that mean?

A. We generally honour creativity and leadership. Innovation can mean new, successful ways of doing things; complex partnerships, exceptional outreach and engagement, or anything that goes beyond the ordinary.

Q. I still have questions!

A. Feel free to contact us at CPO@Ottawa.ca.